



Chapter 4: Employment and Residential Income Characteristics

Census block groups-level presentation



Chapter 4: Employment and Residential Income Characteristics: *Census block groups-level presentation*

This chapter presents information on the employment and income characteristics of residents in the South Wilmington block groups shown in Figure 4.1., the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. Information in this chapter was collected from Census 2000, and thus represents characteristics from the year 2000.

For the remainder of Chapter 4, references to “South Wilmington” represent the area bounded by the four U.S. Census Bureau (Census) block groups (shown in Figure 4.1.) selected to best match the SAMP Project Area, which is illustrated in Figure 1.1 and includes the Southbridge neighborhood as well as developments along the New Castle/Route 9 corridor.

South Wilmington blocks-group level Key Numbers:

Total population aged 16 years and over: 3,605

Total population in labor force: 2,176

Total employed: 1,943

Unemployment rate: 10.2 percent

Top three employment industries:

1. Health and social services (16.1 percent)
2. Finance, insurance, and real estate (15.2 percent)
3. Wholesale and retail trade (14.7 percent)

Most common mode of transport to work:

Driving alone (61.8 percent)

Most common commute duration: 5 to 29 minutes (66.5 percent)

Percent of population aged 18 years and over in U.S. Armed Forces: 0.4

Percent of population aged 18 years and over with veteran status: 11.8

Per capita income: \$12,877

Percent of households receiving public assistance: 10.2

Percent of population with incomes below the poverty level: 21.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

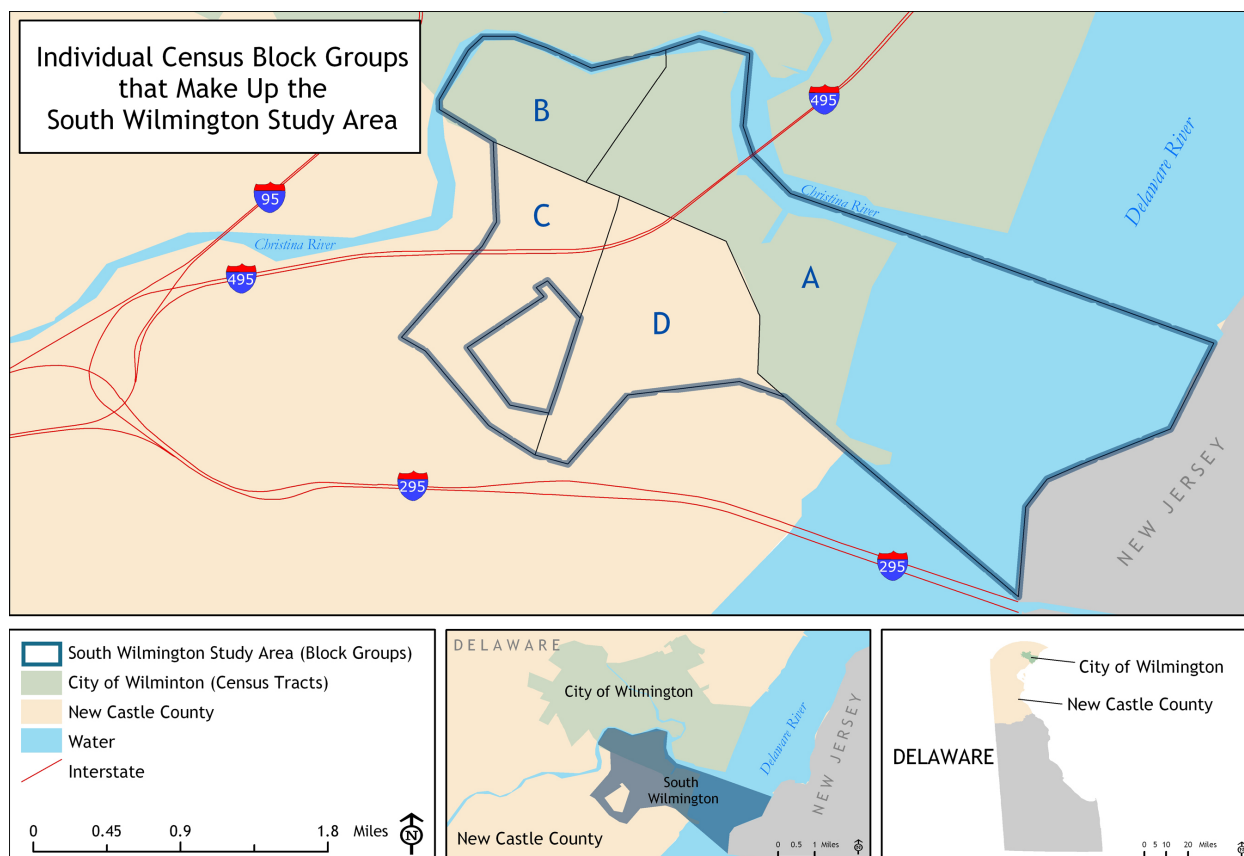


Figure 4.1. The four Census block groups that make up the South Wilmington study area used in this chapter of the report.
Sources: Delaware Department of Transportation, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

4.a. Employment Characteristics

In this section, figures are presented on the characteristics of the labor force and employed population in South Wilmington and the two comparative areas. The chapter also presents details on resident employment by industry, where residents work and how they get to work, and Armed Services status.

The Census Bureau defines the labor force to include all people classified in the civilian labor force (employed or unemployed) plus individuals enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces. Employed individuals include civilians who had a job; while unemployed individuals include those civilians who did not have a job at the time of the Census (Clark & Weismantle, 2003).

In 2000, the South Wilmington population over the age of 16 years was 3,605; of these individuals, 2,176 (60.4 percent) were in the labor force (Table 4.1.). The majority (58.3 percent) of the South Wilmington labor force was female (Figure 4.2.). By comparison, in the City of Wilmington, a similar percentage (60.1 percent) of the population over the age of 16 years was in the labor force, but the split between females and males in the labor force was more equal than what was seen in South Wilmington. In New Castle County, a greater percentage (67.7 percent) of the 16 and over population was in the labor force and, unlike South Wilmington, men in the New Castle County labor force outnumbered women.

Overall, the majority of the populations over the age of 16 years in all three areas were employed (Table 4.1.). The majority of the employed populations in all three areas worked 35 hours or more per week (Figure 4.3.). In 2000, 59.2 percent of the female population in South Wilmington was employed and 40.8 percent of the male population was employed. In contrast, in New Castle County, 51.4 percent of the male population was employed versus 48.6 percent of the female population (Figure 4.4.).

As defined by the Census Bureau, an unemployed civilian is someone who did not have a job during the reference period, was actively looking for work, or was waiting to be called back to a job from which he or she had been laid off and was available to go back to work (Clark and Weismantle, 2003). Census questions relevant to unemployment refer specifically to a time-frame of four weeks of job seeking; individuals who have been looking for longer than four weeks or who have given up on securing a job may not be included in the Census unemployment count (Clark and Weismantle, 2003).

The civilian unemployment rate is defined as the number of unemployed people divided by the sum of employed and unemployed people. In 2000, the unemployment rate in South Wilmington was 10.2 percent, in the City of Wilmington the unemployment rate was 9.6 percent, and in New Castle County the rate was lower, at 5.2 percent. With regards to the unemployment rates in men and women, in South Wilmington, 12.1 percent of the male population and 8.9 percent of the female population were unemployed (Figure 4.5.). Similarly, in both the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, the unemployment rate was higher in the male population.

	South Wilmington	City of Wilmington	New Castle County
Total population aged 16 years and over	3,605	56,086	389,036
Total in labor force	2,176	33,699	263,440
Total employed	1,943	30,412	249,320
Total unemployed	221	3,232	13,571

Table 4.1. Labor force, employed, and unemployed populations in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

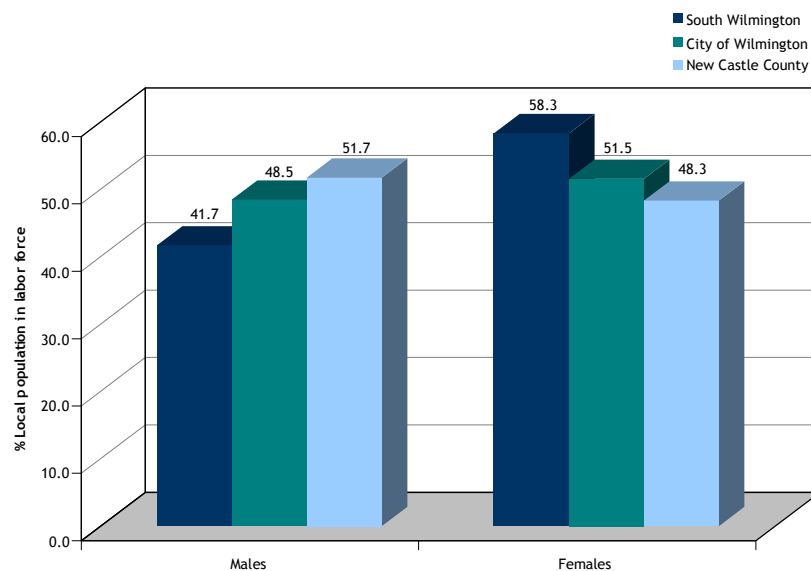


Figure 4.2. Gender distribution in the labor force as percentages of the local populations in the labor force for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a greater percentage of South Wilmington females were in the labor force.
- ◆ In South Wilmington and the City of Wilmington, more females than males were in the labor force; the opposite trend was seen in New Castle County.

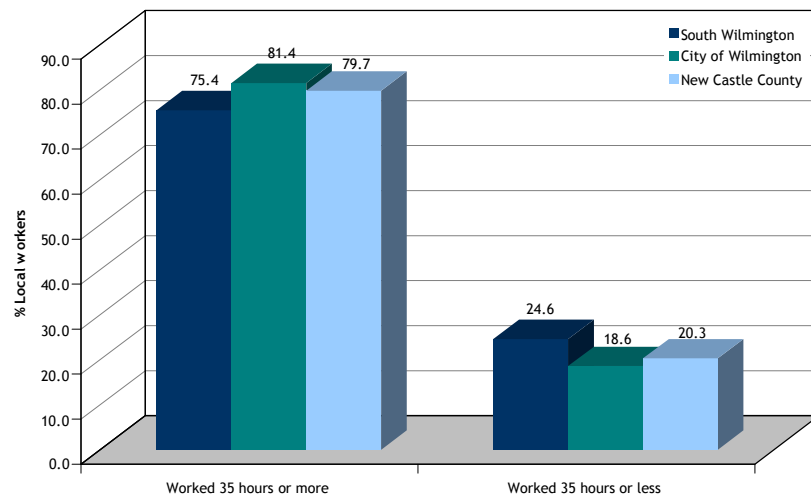


Figure 4.3. Hours worked as percentages of the employed populations in the labor force for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a smaller percentage of the South Wilmington population aged 16 years and older worked 35 hours or more per week.

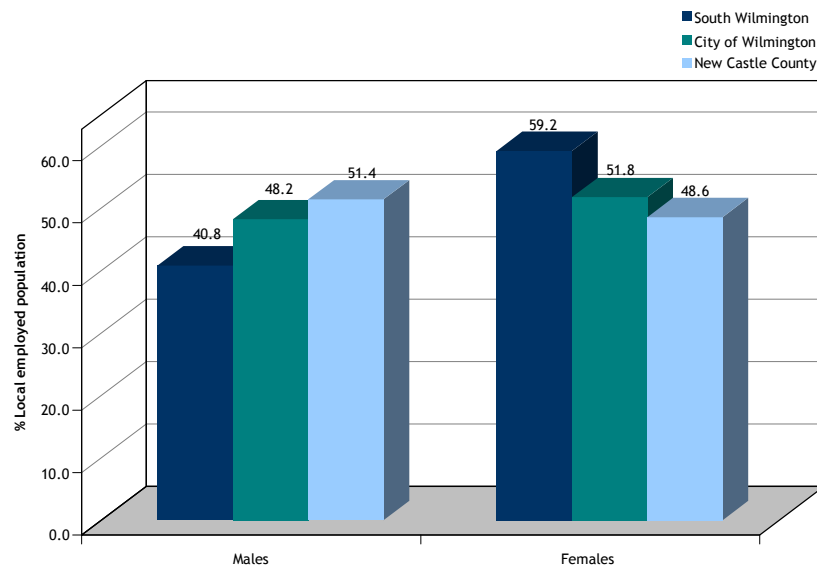


Figure 4.4. Gender distribution as percentages of the local employed populations in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of South Wilmington women were employed and a smaller percentage of men were employed.

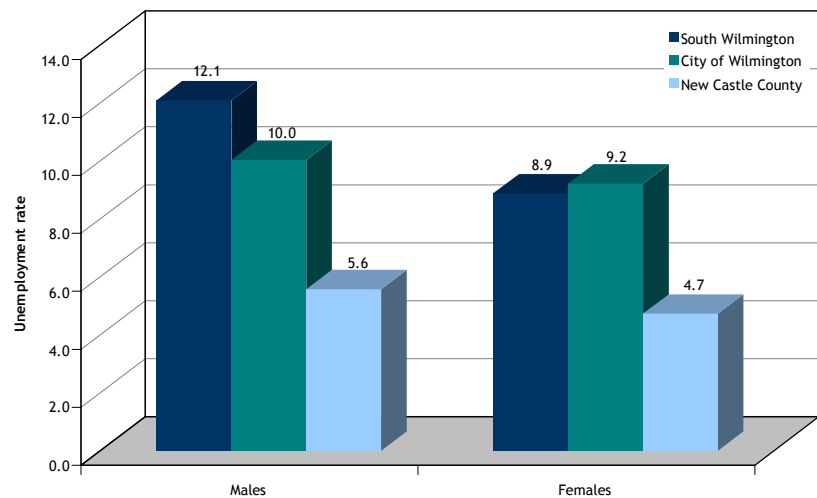


Figure 4.5. Unemployment rate by gender for the local labor force populations in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

◆ In all three areas, the unemployment rate in men was higher than what was seen in women.

Employment by industry

This section of the chapter presents information on employment in 16 industry classifications for the residents of South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. The term “industry” refers to the kind of business conducted by a person’s employing organization; industry is not the same thing as occupation, which refers to the actual type of work that a person does on the job.

In South Wilmington, the top three employment industries were health and social services (16.1 percent); finance, insurance, and real estate (15.2 percent); and wholesale and retail trade (14.7 percent); these three industries alone employed nearly half of all working South Wilmington residents (see Figure 4.6. and Table 4.2.).

By comparison, in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, the industry that employed the largest percentage of the working population was the finance, insurance, and real estate industry; however, overall a larger percentage of South Wilmington residents were employed in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry. The second most common employment industry in the City of Wilmington was health and social services and, in New Castle County, manufacturing ranked second. Similar to South Wilmington, in both the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, the agriculture and mining and management industries employed the smallest percentages of the populations.

The distribution of South Wilmington male and female employees in the various industries differed. The majority of South Wilmington men worked in the wholesale and retail trade industry, followed by nearly equal percentages of men in the construction; manufacturing; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; and finance, insurance, and real estate industries (Figure 4.7.)—these five industries employed two-thirds of all South Wilmington men. In contrast, nearly one-quarter of South Wilmington women worked in the health and social services industry, followed by the finance, insurance, and real estate; trade; and government sectors—these four industries employed over two-thirds of all South Wilmington women.

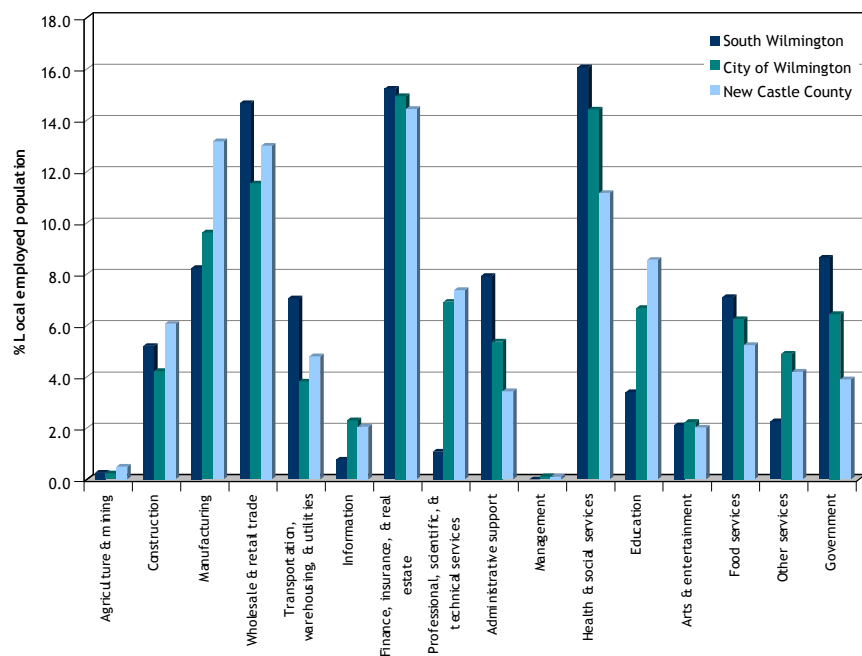


Figure 4.6. Percentages of the local employed populations working in various industries in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County. For specific data values expressed in graph, see Table 4.2 (below).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ In South Wilmington and the City of Wilmington, the top two employment industries were health and social services and finance, insurance, and real estate.
- ◆ Nearly half of all South Wilmington workers were employed in the health and social services; finance, insurance, and real estate; and trade industries.

	South Wilmington	City of Wilmington	New Castle County
Total employed population	1,943	30,412	249,320
<i>Percent employed in each industry:</i>			
Agriculture and mining	0.3	0.2	0.5
Construction	5.2	4.2	6.1
Manufacturing	8.2	9.6	13.2
Wholesale and retail trade	14.7	11.5	13.0
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	7.1	3.8	4.8
Information	0.8	2.3	2.0
Finance, insurance, and real estate	15.2	14.9	14.4
Professional, scientific, and technical services	1.1	6.9	7.4
Administrative support	7.9	5.4	3.4
Management	0.0	0.1	0.1
Health and social services	16.1	14.4	11.2
Education	3.4	6.7	8.6
Arts and entertainment	2.1	2.2	2.0
Food services	7.1	6.3	5.2
Other services	2.3	4.9	4.2
Government	8.6	6.4	3.9

Table 4.2. Employment by industry for employed populations in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

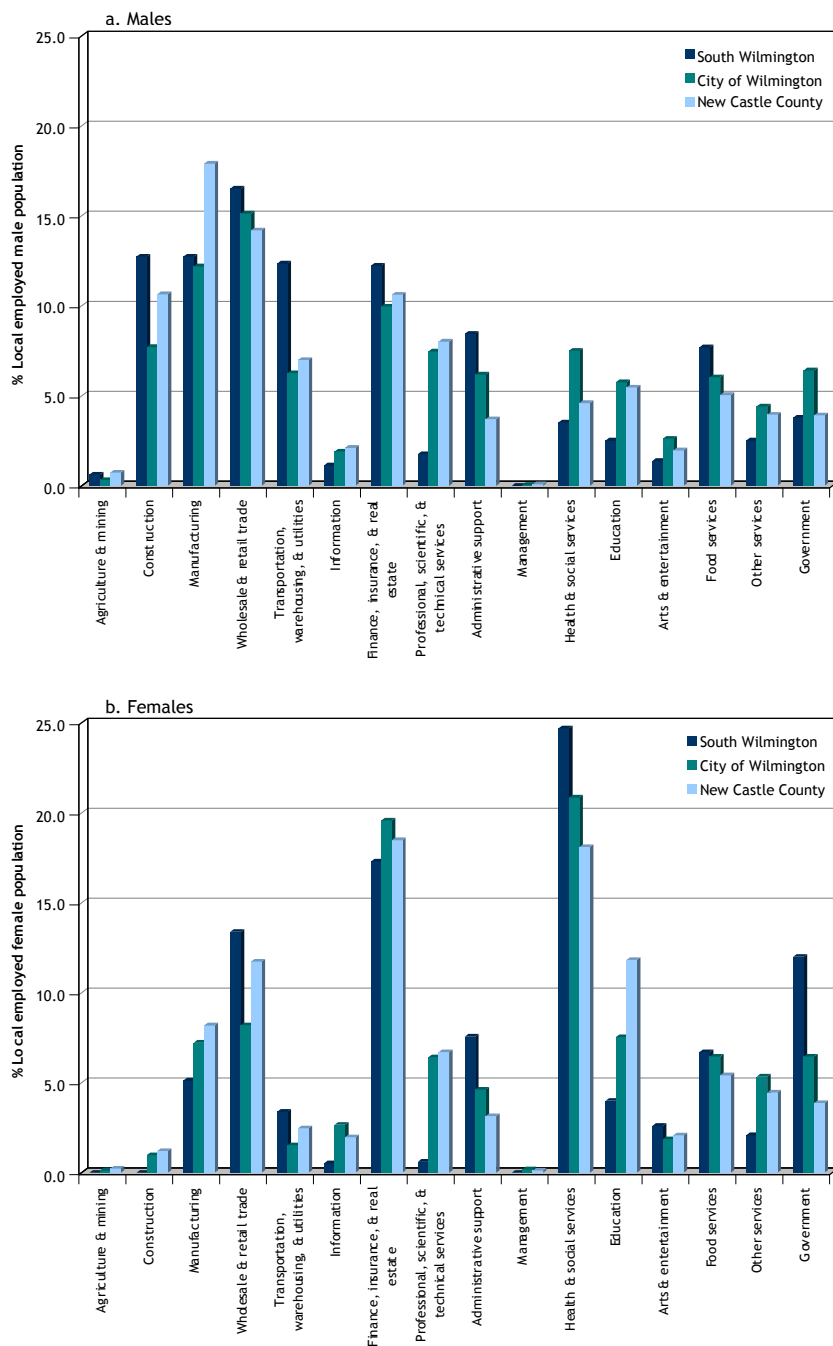


Figure 4.7. Percentages of the local employed male (top) and female (bottom) populations in various industries in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Relative to South Wilmington and the City of Wilmington, a larger proportion of New Castle County men worked in the manufacturing industry.
- ◆ The health and social services industry employed a larger proportion of the female populations than the male populations in all three areas.

Journey to work

This section presents information on the commute to work for workers living in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County, including the length of the commute and mode of transport.

In 2000, the majority of workers living in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County worked in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or the Wilmington-Newark Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) (map of PMSA/MSA shown in Figure 4.8.); a larger percentage of South Wilmington workers worked inside the PMSA/MSA than the other two areas (Figure 4.9.). MSAs and PMSAs are Census-defined geographic areas that include two or more metropolitan areas grouped together for statistical purposes. However, note that the term “Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area” is no longer used by the Census Bureau; under new Census standards, a “Metropolitan Division” is used to refer to a county or group of counties within an MSA that has a population core of at least 2.5 million and is most generally comparable in concept, and equivalent to, the now obsolete “Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area” (OMB, 2005).

Differences were seen amongst the modes of transportation typically used by workers in the three areas. In South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County, driving alone was the most common way to get to work; a larger percentage of New Castle County residents drove alone than either South Wilmington or Wilmington residents (Figure 4.10.). In South Wilmington, the next most common mode of transportation to work was public transportation (16.1 percent), followed by carpooling (13.6 percent) and then walking (6.6 percent). By contrast, less than four percent of New Castle County residents took public transportation to work.

Overall, workers in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County had similar commute durations. As shown in Figure 4.11., the majority of workers in all three areas traveled less than a half hour to get to work.

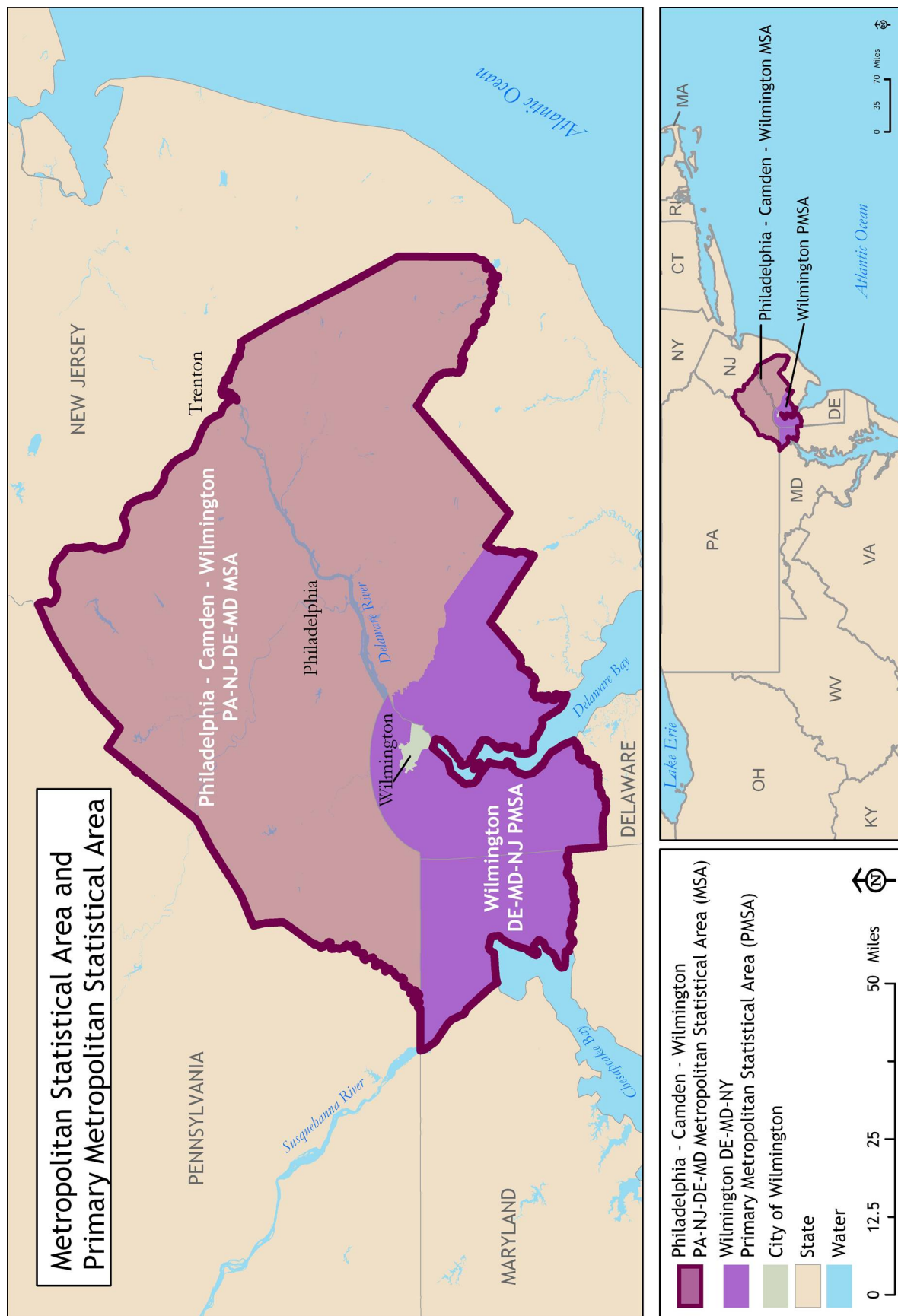


Figure 48. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Wilmington-Newark Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; 1999

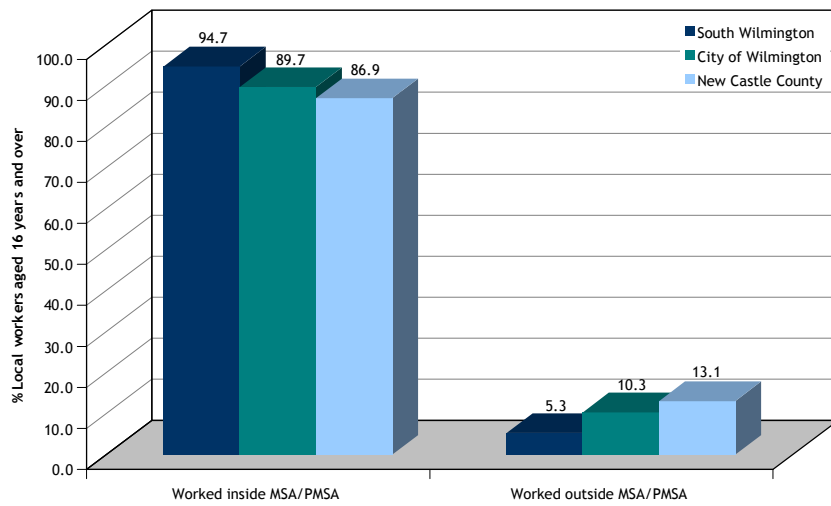


Figure 4.9. Workers living in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County and working inside or outside of the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington MSA or Wilmington-Newark PMSA.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ♦ In all three areas, the majority of workers worked in the MSA/PMSA in which they lived.
- ♦ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of South Wilmington residents worked inside the MSA/PMSA in which they lived.

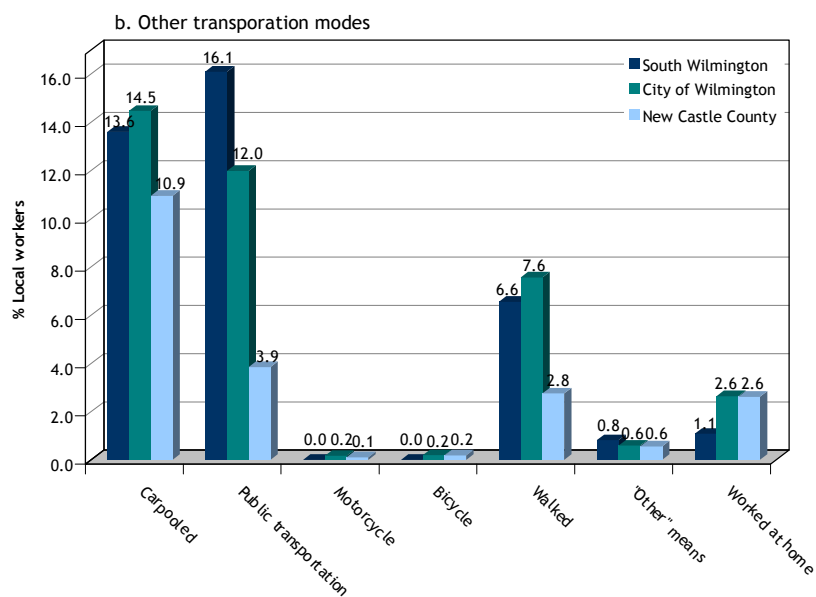
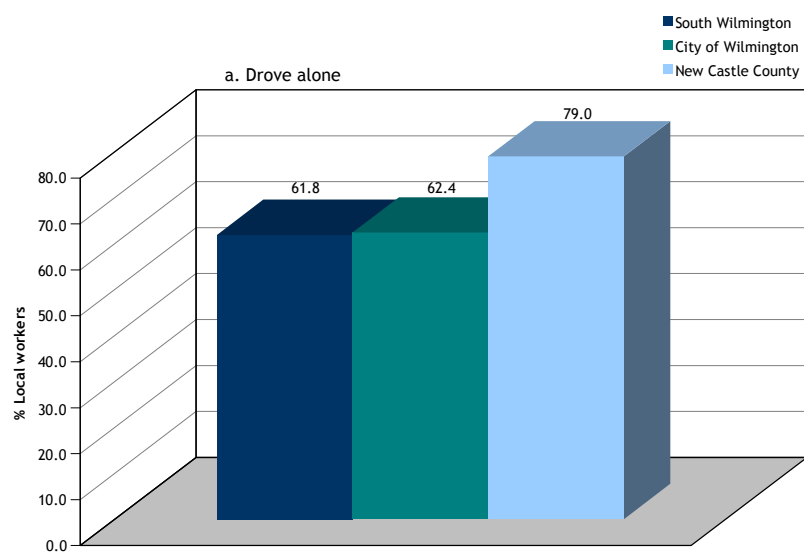


Figure 4.10. Means of transportation to work, including driving alone (top) and other modes (bottom), used by workers living in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ♦ In all three areas, driving alone was the most common means to travel to work.
- ♦ Of the three areas, South Wilmington had the largest percentage of workers who took public transportation to work; New Castle County had the smallest such percentage.

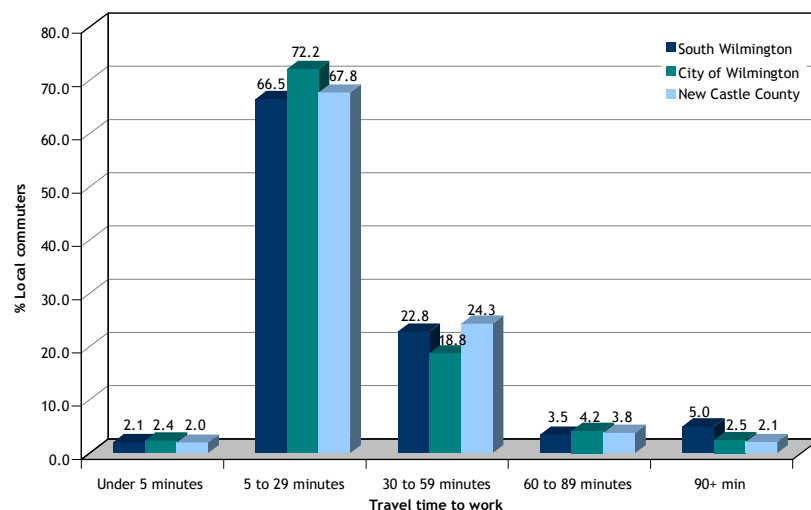


Figure 4.11. Travel time to work for commuters living in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

♦ In all three areas, most workers had a commute of less than a half hour.

Armed Services status

This section presents information on the 2000 Armed Services status of South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County residents over the age of 18 years, including the number of enlisted soldiers and veterans.

The U.S. Armed Forces includes the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The 2000 Census defined a veteran as someone who is not currently on active duty, but who once served in the U.S. Armed Forces or in the Merchant Marine.

As shown in Table 4.3., less than 15 percent of the South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County populations over the age of 18 years were involved with the U.S. Armed Forces. Less than one percent of the populations in all three areas were enlisted in the Armed Forces in 2000. Veterans made up a larger proportion of the New Castle County population than the South Wilmington or the City of Wilmington populations.

In South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County, gender involvement in the Armed Forces differed. In all three areas, males made up over 90 percent of all veterans (Figure 4.11.). Also, approximately one-third of all veterans in the three areas were aged 65 years and over. In South Wilmington, females made up a greater percentage (58.3 percent) of the population currently enlisted in the Armed Forces than did males; by contrast, nearly three-quarters of all New Castle County enlistees were male (Figure 4.13.).

	South Wilmington	City of Wilmington	New Castle County
Population aged 18 and over	3,391	53,998	376,021
Percent veterans	11.8	11.1	12.5
Percent in armed forces	0.4	0.1	0.1

Table 4.3. Percent of populations in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County involved in the U.S. Armed Forces.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

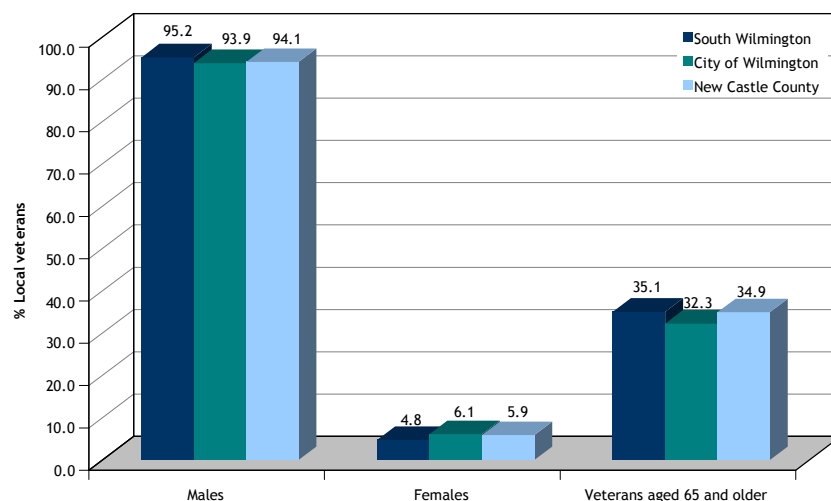


Figure 4.12. Veteran status as a percent of all veterans living in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ♦ The majority of veterans in all three areas were male.
- ♦ Approximately one-third of veterans in all three areas were over the age of 65 year.

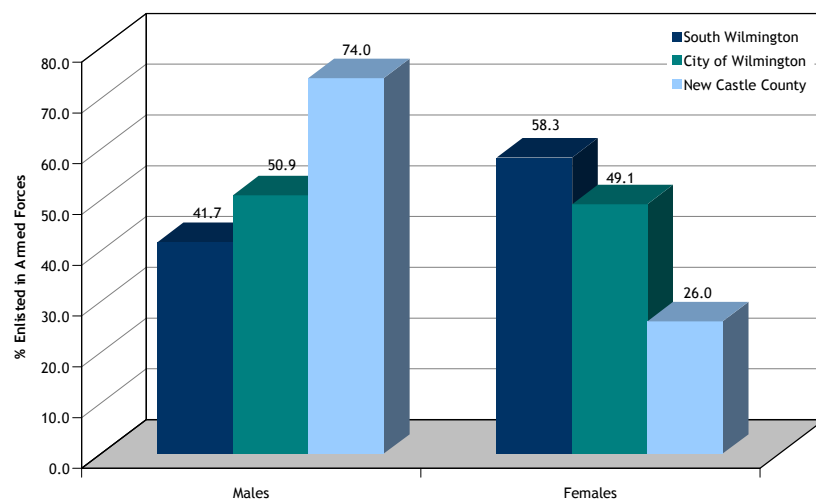


Figure 4.13. Males and females enlisted in the Armed Forces, as percentages of all enlistees living in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ♦ In contrast to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, women outnumbered men in terms of South Wilmington residents in the Armed Forces.
- ♦ Relative to the City of Wilmington and South Wilmington, a larger percentage of the enlistee population in New Castle County was male.

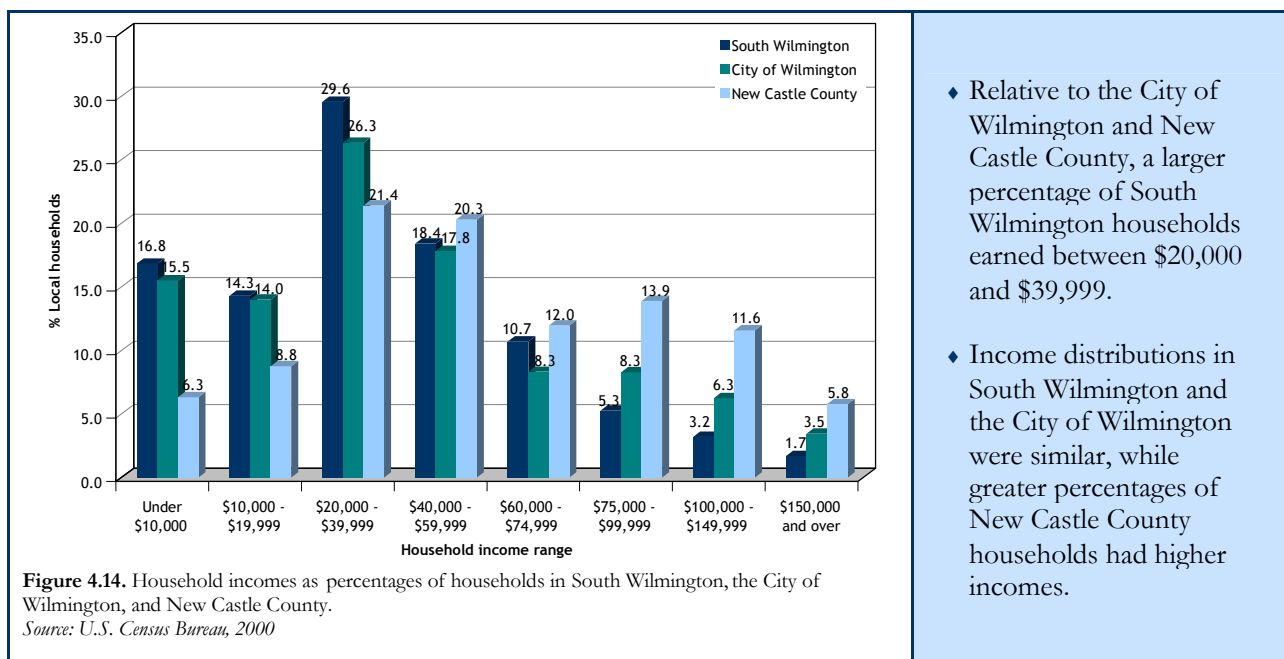
4.b. Residential Income Characteristics

This section presents information on the incomes of South Wilmington, City of Wilmington, and New Castle County households and poverty status for the populations in the three geographic areas.

Household incomes

In 2000, nearly half of all South Wilmington households had an income between \$20,000 and \$59,999; similar income trends were seen in City of Wilmington and New Castle County households (Figure 4.14). Overall, the income distributions in South Wilmington and City of Wilmington households were similar; however, in New Castle County, a larger percentage of households earned over \$60,000, suggesting that, overall, New Castle County had higher household incomes. This is further evidenced by the fact that, in 2000, the per capita income in South Wilmington was \$12,877.50, while in New Castle County, the per capita income was nearly double that of South Wilmington, at \$24,667.25.

In South Wilmington, the distribution of income levels amongst men and women was the same; however, a larger proportion of South Wilmington men than South Wilmington women earned over \$40,000 per year (Figure 4.15). Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, greater percentages of South Wilmington men and women earned less than \$40,000 annually, again suggesting overall higher income levels in the comparative areas.



	South Wilmington	City of Wilmington	New Castle County
Per capita income	\$12,877.50	\$18,868.71	\$24,667.25

Table 4.4. Average per capita income for South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County households in 2000.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

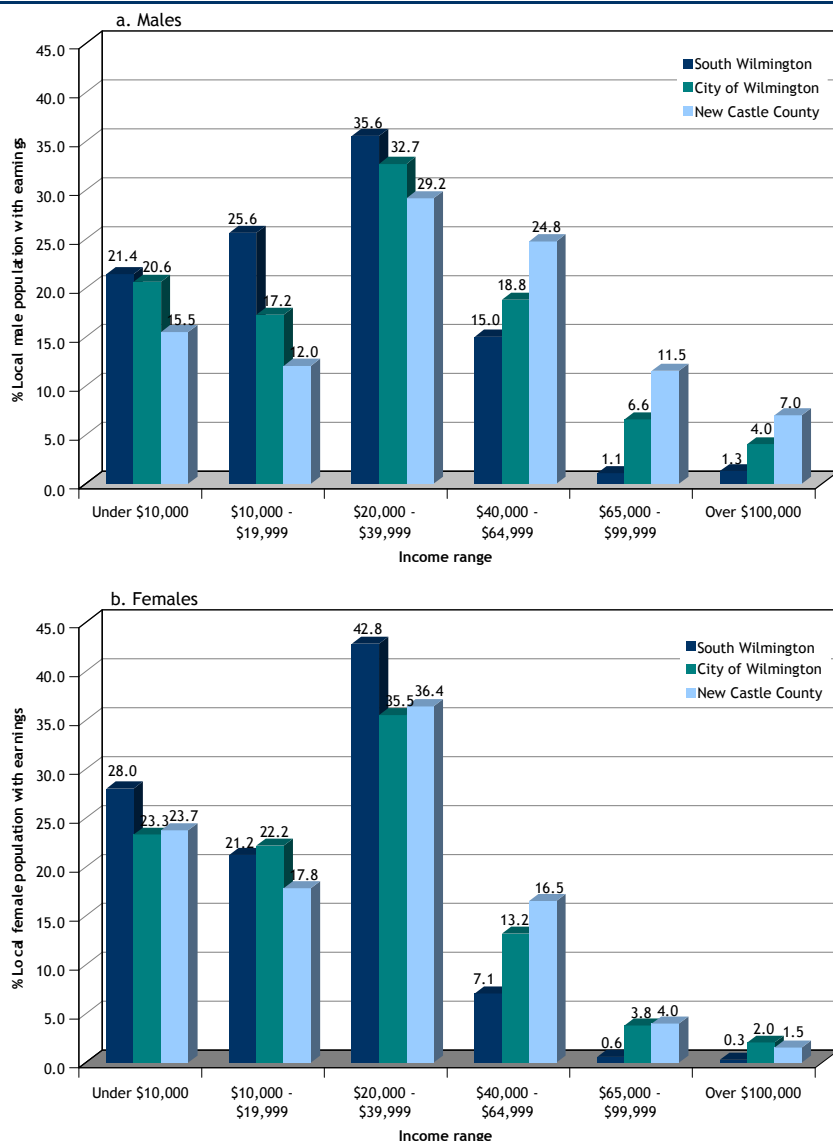


Figure 4.15. Income levels for males (top) and females (bottom) in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, South Wilmington men and women had lower incomes.
- ◆ In all three areas, men overall had higher incomes than women.

Retirement and social security income

Retirement income includes payments received from: companies or unions; the federal government; the military; state or local governments; railroad retirement; annuities or paid-up insurance policies; individual retirement accounts (IRAs) or 401(k) payments; or other retirement income. In South Wilmington, 22.3 percent of households were receiving some type of retirement income, versus 17.4 percent of City of Wilmington households and 18.9 percent of New Castle County households (Figure 4.16). The majority of households in all three areas had no retirement income as of 2000.

The U.S. Census Bureau defines social security income as social security pensions and survivors' benefits and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration prior to deductions for medical insurance; Medicare reimbursements for health services were not counted as social security benefits. In 2000, the majority of households in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County did not have a social security income (Figure 4.17.). Of the three areas, South Wilmington had the largest proportion of households that received social security payments.

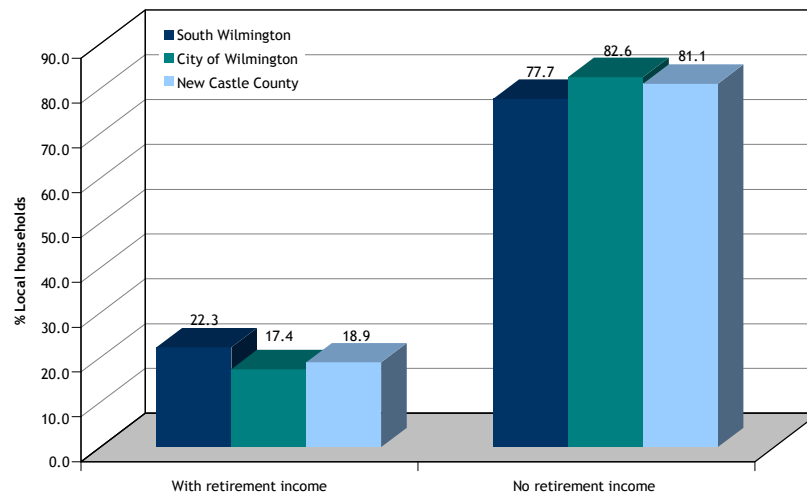


Figure 4.16. Percent of households with and without retirement income in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of South Wilmington households had a retirement income.
- ◆ In all three areas, the majority of households did not receive retirement income in 2000.

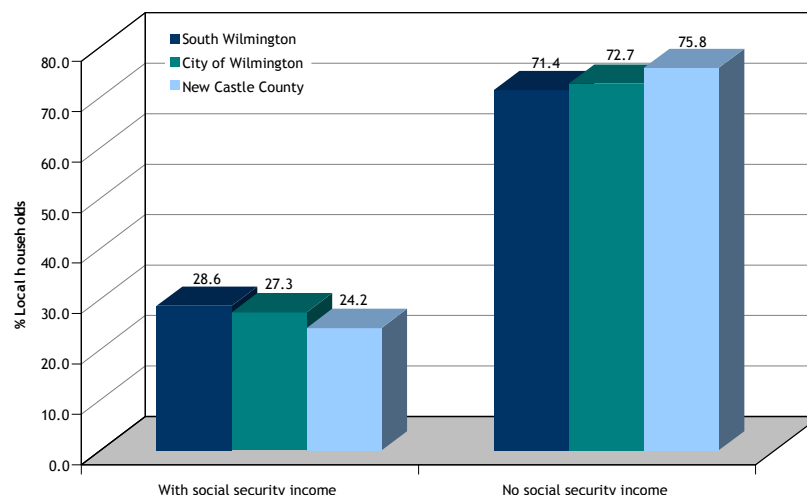


Figure 4.17. Percent of households with and without social security income in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Most households in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County did not receive social security payments in 2000.
- ◆ A greater proportion of South Wilmington households received social security income than did City of Wilmington or New Castle County households.

Public assistance

Public assistance or welfare payments include cash public assistance payments, including aid to families with dependent children, temporary assistance to needy families, general assistance, and emergency assistance. Relative to City of Wilmington and New Castle County households, in 2000, a larger percentage of South Wilmington households received public assistance of some type (Figure 4.18.). Of the three areas, New Castle County had the smallest percentage of households receiving public assistance.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes) to provide funds for basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter to aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income. In 2000, 9.1 percent of households in South Wilmington received SSI. By comparison, 7.4 percent of City of Wilmington households and 3.3 percent of New Castle County households received SSI in 2000 (Figure 4.19.).

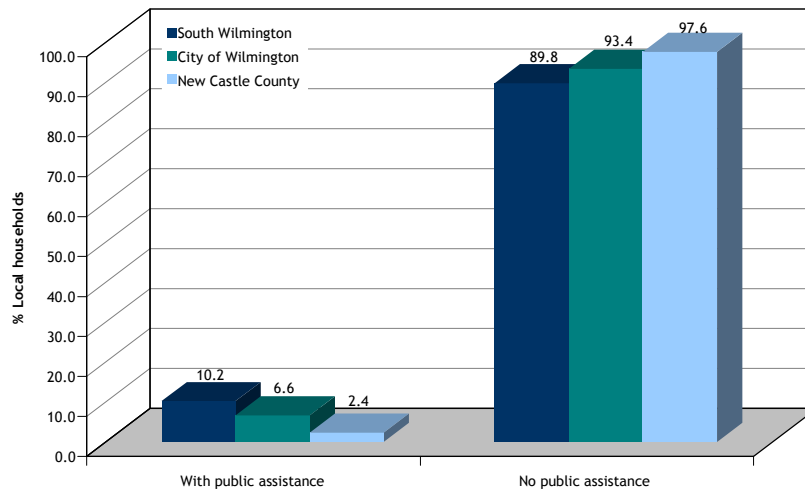


Figure 4.18. Percent of households with and without public assistance in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ In all three areas, the majority of households did not receive public assistance.
- ◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of South Wilmington households received public assistance.

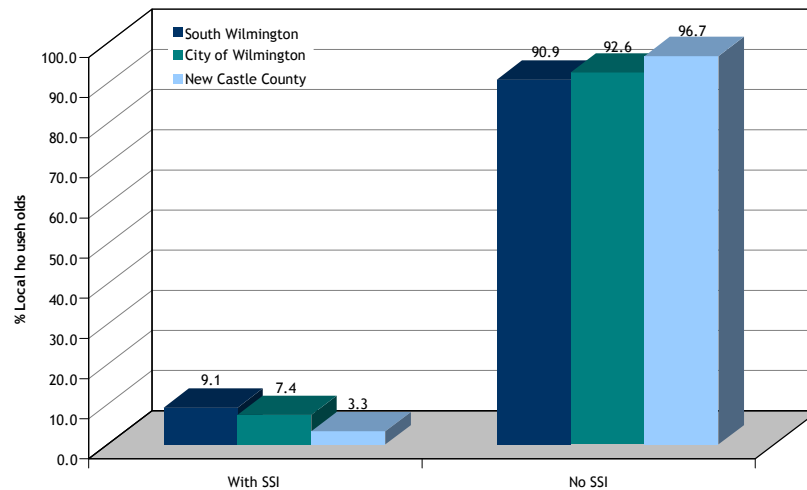


Figure 4.19. Percent of households with and without Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ♦ In all three areas, the majority of households did not receive SSI.
- ♦ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of South Wilmington households received SSI.

Poverty status

In determining poverty status, the U.S. Census Bureau uses measures developed by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, which examines poverty thresholds (income levels) relative to family incomes (Bishaw & Iceland, 2003). Poverty thresholds are the dollar amounts used to determine poverty status and take into account family size and the number of children present; thresholds were not adjusted for locality in Census 2000 (Bishaw & Iceland, 2003). Total family income was then compared to the poverty threshold to determine poverty status. If a family's income was less than the threshold for the family's size and composition, the family (including all members) was in poverty; if the family's income fell above the poverty threshold, the family was considered to be above the poverty level.

According to Census 2000, 21.3 percent of South Wilmington residents were earning incomes below the poverty level, while 78.7 percent had incomes above the poverty level; these figures are identical to what was seen in the City of Wilmington population (Figure 4.20.). By contrast, 8.4 percent of the New Castle County population had incomes below the poverty level and 91.6 percent were above poverty.

For South Wilmington residents with incomes below the poverty level, nearly half (47.5 percent) were between the ages of 18 and 64. The next highest percentage of South Wilmington residents below the poverty level were in the five to 17-year old age range, followed by the 65 and over and five and under age groups. While overall age distributions of residents below the poverty level seen in South Wilmington were similar to what was seen in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of the New Castle County population in poverty was in the 18 to 64-year old age group.

When examining poverty status by household, in South Wilmington, 22.3 percent of households had incomes below the poverty threshold, which is a higher percentage than was seen in either the City of Wilmington or New Castle County (Figure 4.22.). New Castle County had the lowest percentage

of households with below-poverty incomes. In terms of household type, in all three areas a higher percentage of non-family households were below poverty (Figure 4.23.). In 2000, over half of South Wilmington households with incomes below the poverty level had householders between the ages of 25 and 45 years (Figure 4.24.). Only four percent of South Wilmington households with incomes below the poverty level had householders who were under the age of 25 years; in comparison, nearly 18 percent of New Castle County households below the poverty level had householders younger than 25 years of age.

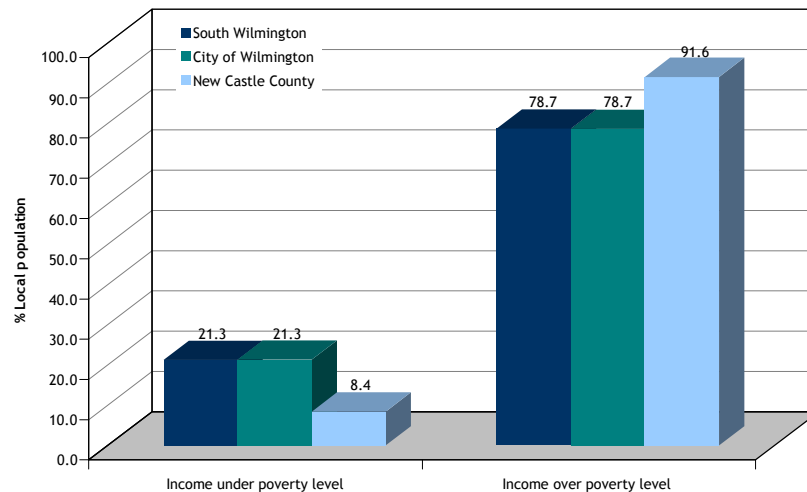


Figure 4.20. Percentages of the populations (with poverty status checked) above and below the poverty level in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Equal percentages of South Wilmington and City of Wilmington populations had incomes both above and below the poverty threshold.
- ◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and South Wilmington, a smaller percentage of the New Castle County population had incomes below the poverty levels.

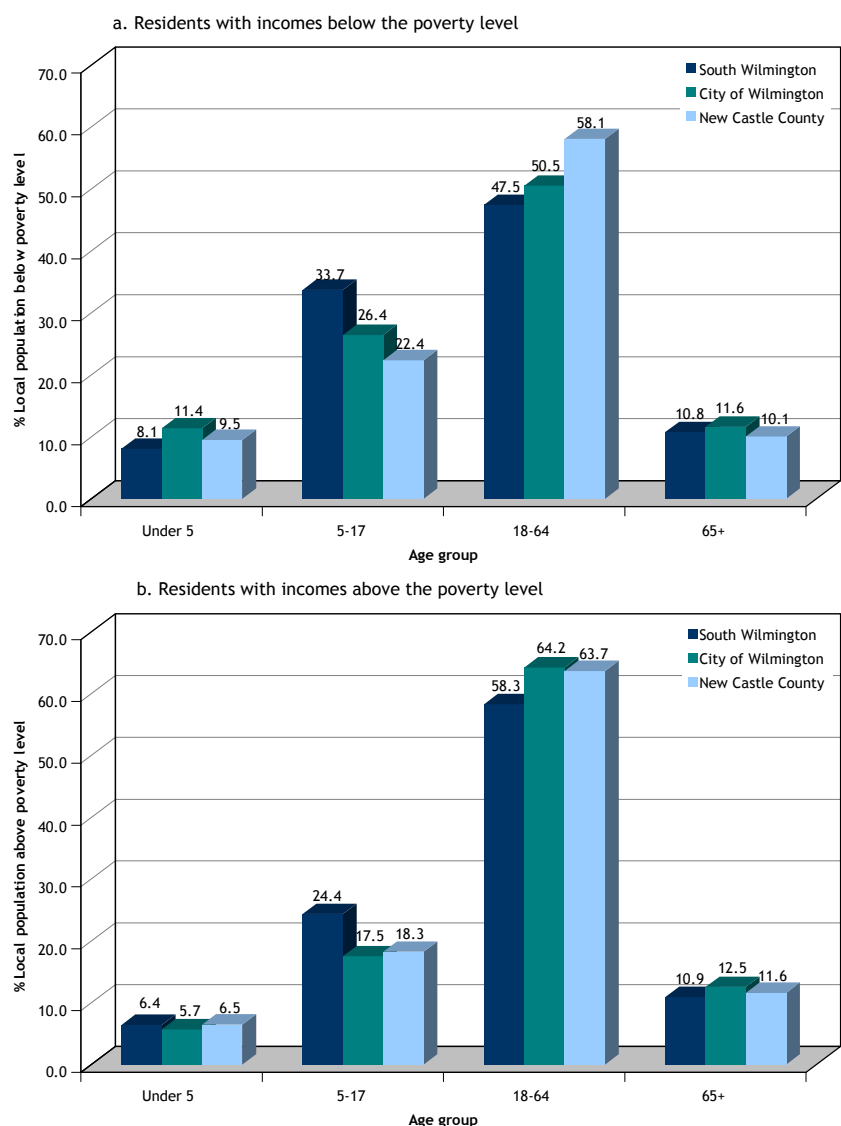


Figure 4.21. Percentages of the populations by age below (top) and above (bottom) the poverty level in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

♦ In all three areas, most residents, both below and above poverty, were between 18 and 64 years of age.

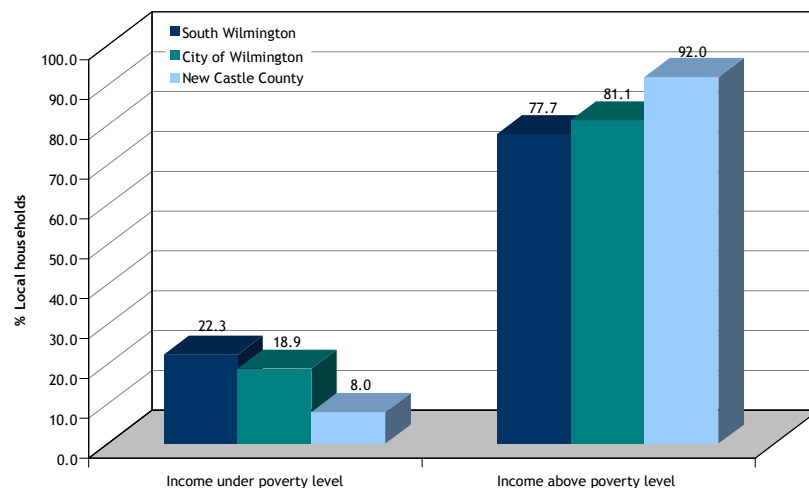


Figure 4.22. Percentages of households above and below the poverty level in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ♦ In all three areas, the majority of households had incomes above poverty levels.
- ♦ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, a larger percentage of South Wilmington households were below poverty.

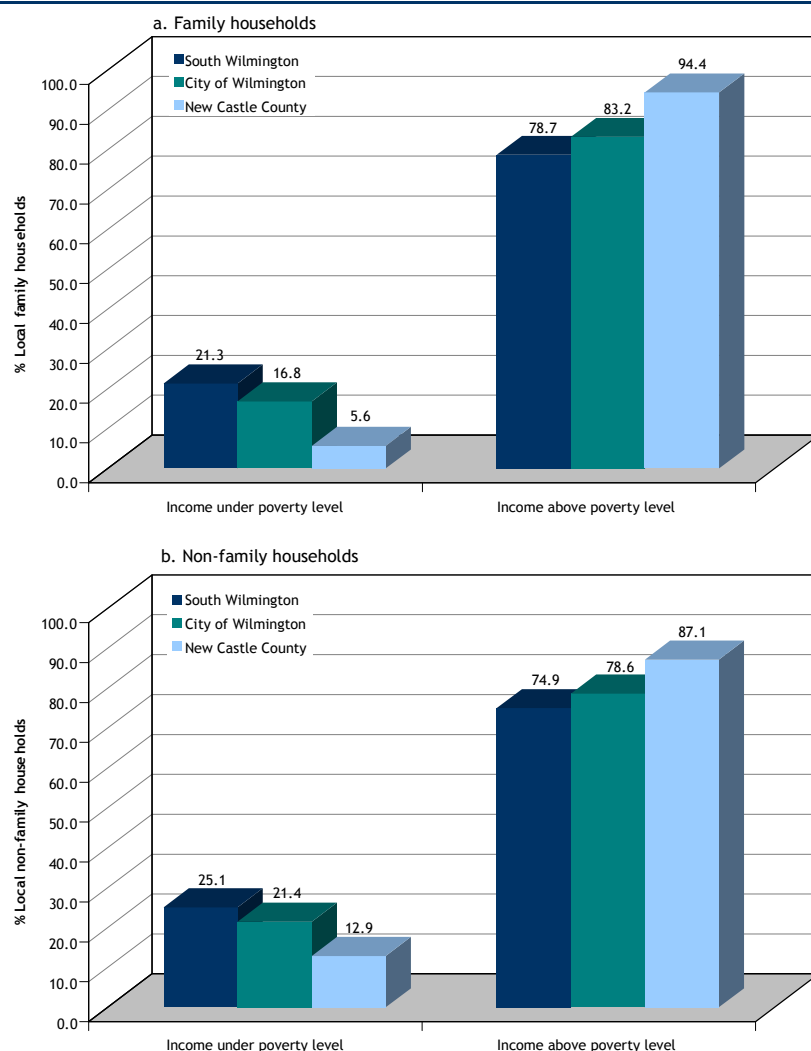


Figure 4.23. Percentages of family households (top) and non-family households (bottom) above and below poverty levels in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

- ◆ Relative to the City of Wilmington and New Castle County, higher percentages of both South Wilmington family and non-family households had incomes below the poverty threshold.
- ◆ A higher percentage of South Wilmington non-family households were below poverty than South Wilmington family households.

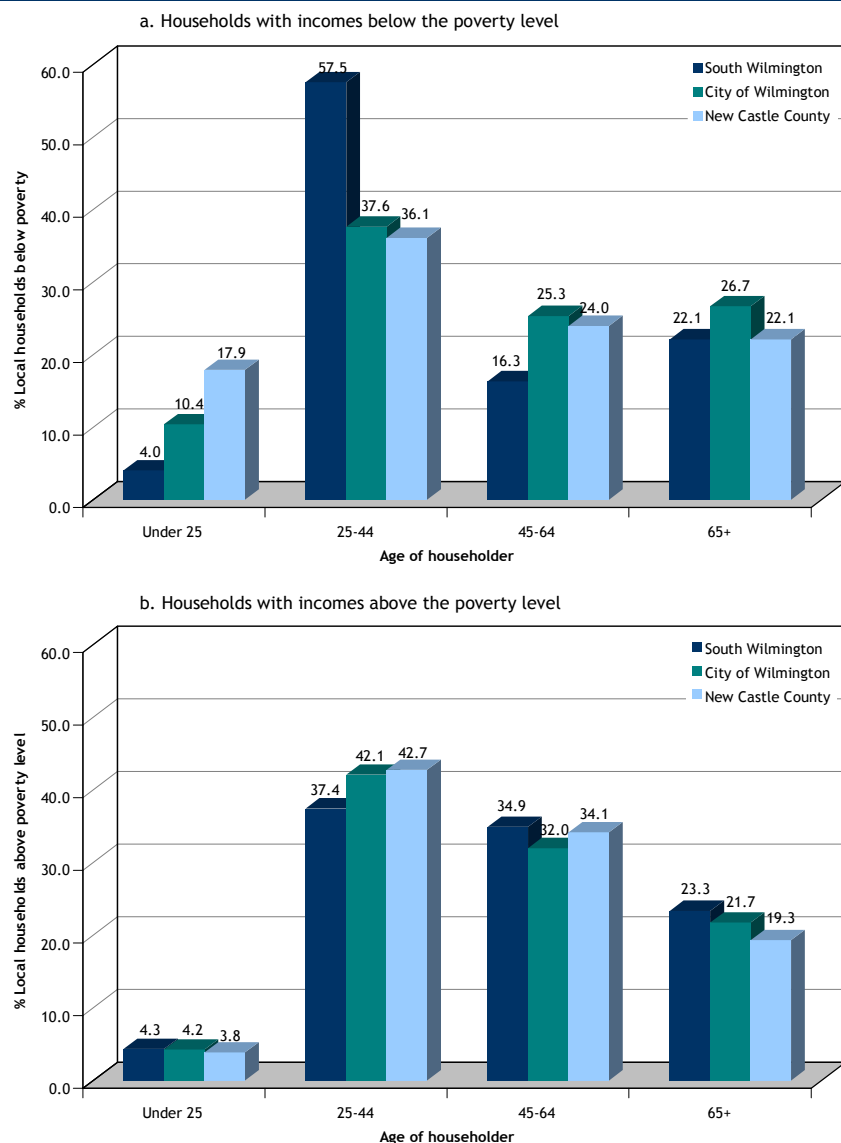


Figure 4.24. Percentages of households by age of householder that are below (top) and above (bottom) the poverty level in South Wilmington, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

♦ In all three areas, most households that were below the poverty level had householders between 25 and 44 years of age.

♦ Over half of South Wilmington households with incomes below the poverty level had householders between the ages of 25 and 44 years.